



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Kenny C. Guinn, Governor*

*Allen Biaggi, Director*

*Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator*

## Notice of Proposed Action

Web Posting Date: 120106

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Pipeline Project**, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0093109** is:

**Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines**  
**HC66 Box 1250**  
**Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250**

The facility is located on public land in Lander County, within Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, Township 28 North, Range 47 East, and Sections 4, 5, and 6, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 30 air-miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain.

The project consists of an open pit mining operation with both mill and heap leach pad beneficiation facilities for primary extraction of gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 30,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of the combined Pipeline/South Pipeline open pit mine and associated but separately permitted (NEV0095111) dewatering system; a waste rock storage facility; the Pipeline carbon-in-leach (CIL) Mill #2; the Area 28 tailings storage facility, heap leach pads, carbon-in-column (CIC) process facility with lined pregnant solution, barren/underdrain solution, and stormwater ponds; the Area 30 (South Area Heap Leach) 2002 Construction and 2004 Construction heap leach pads, CIC process plant with two (2) pregnant ponds, one (1) barren pond, and one (1) stormwater pond; and associated ancillary pipelines, collection channels, valves, pumps, and support facilities. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event. It is estimated the facility will disturb approximately 7,600 acres of public land during a minimum 14-year projected mine life.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the renewal Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their written

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comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice to:

Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The draft Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409 or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov.bmrr/bmrr01.html>

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